

# REPORT

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 20th August 1898.

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## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bangavasi" ...	Calcutta ...	25,000	13th August, 1898.	
2	"Basumati" ...	Ditto ...	15,000	18th ditto.	
3	"Hitaishi" ...	Ditto ...	800	16th ditto.	
4	"Hitavadi" ...	Ditto ...	About 4,000	12th ditto.	
5	"Mihir-o-Sudhakar" ...	Ditto ...	1,600	12th ditto.	
6	"Samay" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	12th ditto.	
7	"Sanjivani" ...	Ditto ...	3,000	13th ditto.	
8	"Som Prakash" ...	Ditto ...	1,000	15th ditto.	
9	"Sulabh Samachar" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto ...	200		
2	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika."	Ditto ...	1,000	13th to 17th August, 1898.	
3	"Samvad Prabhakar" ...	Ditto ...	2,000	12th, 13th and 15th to 18th August, 1898.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	200	12th, 13th and 15th to 18th August 1898.	
<b>HINDI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Marwari Gazette" ...	Ditto ...	400		
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hindi Bangavasi" ...	Ditto ...	6,500	15th August, 1898.	
<i>Daily.</i>					
1	"Bharat Mitra" ...	Ditto ...	.....	9th to 13th and 15th August, 1898.	
<b>PERSIAN.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Hablul Mateen" ...	Ditto ...	.....	15th August, 1898.	
2	"Mefta-hur-safar" ...	Ditto ...	.....	15th ditto.	
<b>URDU.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide."	Ditto ...	320	11th August, 1898.	
2	"General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto ...	330	16th ditto.	
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>					
1	"Nusrat-ul-Islam" ...	Ditto ...	.....		
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Fortnightly.</i>					
1	"Pallivasi" ...	Kalna ...	475	10th and 17th August, 1898.	
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Bankura Darpan" ...	Bankura ...	572		
2	"Burdwan Sanjivani" ...	Burdwan ...	240	16th August, 1898.	
3	"Chinsura Bartavaha" ...	Chinsura ...	400		
4	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly ...	1,350	12th ditto.	
<b>BENGALI.</b>					
<i>Weekly.</i>					
1	"Murshidabad Hitaishi" ...	Murshidabad ...	655	10th and 17th August, 1898.	
2	"Pratihar" ...	Ditto ...	603	12th ditto.	



No.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.
<div>URIYA.</div> <div>Weekly.</div> <div>ORISSA DIVISION.</div>					
1	"Sambalpur Hitaishini" ...	Bamra in the Central Provinces.	.....		This paper is said to have some circulation in the Division but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.
2	"Samvad Vahika" ...	Balasore ...	150		
3	"Uriya and Navasamvad" ...	Ditto ...	309		
4	"Utkal Dipika" ...	Cuttack ...	400		
<div>HINDI.</div> <div>Monthly.</div> <div>PATNA DIVISION.</div>					
1	"Bihar Bandhu" ...	Bankipur ...	About 600		
<div>Weekly.</div>					
1	"Aryavarta" ...	Dinapur ...	1,000		
<div>URDU.</div> <div>Weekly.</div>					
1	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipur ...	500	12th August, 1898.	
2	"Gaya Punch" ...	Gaya ...	400	8th ditto.	
<div>BENGALI.</div> <div>Weekly.</div> <div>RAJSHAHI DIVISION.</div>					
1	"Hindu Ranjika" ...	Boalia, Rajshahi ...	243	10th August, 1898	This paper is not regularly published for want of type.
2	"Kangal" ...	Kuch Bihar ...	.....	17th ditto.	
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" ...	Kakina, Rangpur ...	180		
<div>HINDI.</div> <div>Monthly.</div>					
1	"Darjeeling Mission ke Masik Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling ...	.....		
<div>BENGALI.</div> <div>Fortnightly.</div> <div>DACCA DIVISION.</div>					
1	"Faridpur Hitaishini" ...	Faridpur ...	755	15th August, 1898.	
2	"Kasipur Nivasi" ...	Kasipur, Barisal ...	315	14th ditto.	
<div>Weekly.</div>					
1	"Barisal Hitaishi" ...	Barisal ...	300		
2	"Charu Mihir" ...	Mymensingh ...	900	8th and 15th August, 1898.	
3	"Dacca Prakash" ...	Dacca ...	2,400	14th ditto.	
4	"Sanjay" ...	Faridpur ...	.....	12th ditto.	
5	"Saraswat Patra" ...	Dacca ...	About 500	13th ditto.	
<div>ENGLISH AND BENGALI.</div> <div>Weekly.</div>					
1	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca ...	500	15th August, 1898.	
<div>BENGALI.</div> <div>Fortnightly.</div> <div>CHITTAGONG DIVISION.</div>					
1	"Tripura Hitaishi" ...	Comilla ...	450		
<div>Weekly.</div>					
1	"Jyoti" ...	Chittagong ...	.....		
2	"Sansodhini" ...	Ditto ...	120	10th August, 1898.	
<div>BENGALI.</div> <div>Fortnightly.</div> <div>ASSAM.</div>					
1	"Paridarsak" ...	Sylhet ...	.....	30th July, 1898.	
2	"Silchar" ...	Silchar, Cachar ...	340	1st fortnight of July, 1898.	





## I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

'THE *Bangavasi* of the 13th August gives a picture of the British Lion and the Russian Bear standing face to face, the former as a naval and the latter as a military power and writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 13th, 1898.

Who are stronger—the English or the Russians? 'This is the question which is being discussed now that there has arisen some difference between Russia and England in China. England is the mistress of the sea; her men-of-war gird the world. What will Russia's prowess on land avail against England? It is true that the Russian army is numerically much stronger than the English army, but that is no reason why Russia will prove victorious over England. The Cossack soldiers are no doubt formidable fighters; but that is no guarantee for Russia's victory. David defeated Goliath the giant, and the small heroic band of Leonidas successfully repulsed the countless hosts of Xerxes. With a small army England made things too hot for Russia in the Crimean War. The smallness of an army does not necessarily mean its defeat. If this had been the case, Russia would have invaded India long ago. It is also a great point in England's favour that her army is being always practically trained in warfare all over the world, while Russia's army has not long seen the field—since the Russo-Turkish war, in fact. The English navy, moreover, is twice as powerful as the Russian navy; it is, in fact, invincible. Not even the combined fleets of France and Russia will equal the English fleet. England, again, is richer than Russia, and money is the sinews of war.

## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* of the 8th August urges the necessity of a thorough enquiry into a case of suspicious death in Amtala, thana Kendua, district Mymensingh, by a tried and reliable police officer. A woman, Sonajan Bibi, is said to have committed suicide. Her father, however, suspected foul play and prayed for a police enquiry. The Sub-Inspector reported the case as one of suicide, though the *post-mortem* examination showed that the deceased had been strangled to death. The District Superintendent of Mymensingh has reported to the Divisional Commissioner that the villagers have conspired not to give any information to the police.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 8th, 1898.

3. The *Sansodhini* of the 10th August says that Mr. Castle, District Superintendent of Police, Chittagong, struck constable Kader Baksh, No. 1968, of the Jorarganj outpost, with a ruler so severely on the nose, for his inability to explain satisfactorily why he did not attend at the District Superintendent's office on the 6th August last to receive the pay of the men of his outpost, that the man bled profusely. The incident occurred at 4-45 P.M. on the 8th August.

SANSODHINI,  
Aug. 10th, 1898.

It was the very same officer who some time ago was fined Rs. 5 by Mr. Phillimore, District Magistrate, for whipping without provocation the coachman of Babu Bagala Prasanna Majumdar, Deputy Magistrate of the place. It was also rumoured that it was at his instigation that the men of the Pioneer tea-garden belonging to Nityananda Babu committed oppression on the manager, Mr. Melin. It is hoped that the authorities will take due notice of Mr. Castle's conduct.

4. Referring to Sir John Woodburn's refusal to withdraw Sir Alexander Mackenzie's order disarming the people of Barisal, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 12th August says:—

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

The people of Barisal must be very unfortunate. It is idle to expect that they will receive any relief in future when their grievance has not been redressed by so liberal-minded a governor as Sir John Woodburn. A great want of the people of Barisal will have been removed if a certain number of gun-licenses had been ordered to be granted after full enquiry.



SANJAY,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

5. Thefts, says the *Sanjay* of the 12th August, have become prevalent in the Madaripur thana in the Faridpur district, and bad rumours are afloat against the officer in charge of the station. If no trace has been found of the perpetrators of the Khalia dacoity, there can remain no doubt about the inefficiency of the local police.

SANJAY,

6. The same paper reports a case in which a police officer of Faridpur ordered two hackney carriage drivers to take their conveyances off the public road because the passengers were making a row with some women of the town. The drivers were, on refusing to obey, taken to the thana, where the Sub-Inspector let them off. But the District Magistrate, on receiving the Sub-Inspector's report, ordered the prosecution of the drivers under section 34 of Act V of 1861; and they were convicted and fined. The local police is requested to see that prostitutes and drunkards are not allowed to become a nuisance on the public roads.

DACCA PRAKASH,  
Aug. 14th, 1898.

7. The *Dacca Prakash* of the 14th August is of the same opinion as before that, in place of three or four chaukidars, a respectable man should be employed either as Secretary to the Union Committee or as tahsildar of the panchayet. Such a man may be relied on for the correctness of the many reports and informations which the chaukidars are required to furnish. The chaukidars do nothing in the day-time. At night, under the pretext of guarding the village, they steal and oppress weak, helpless widows. If such chaukidars are replaced by the panchayet's tahsildar, thefts and robberies will become less frequent.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 8th, 1898

8. It is, says the *Charu Mihir* of the 8th August, a strange irony of fate that under English rule the practice prevails in India of appealing against acquittals in the criminal courts. In England the prosecution is not even allowed to reply to the counsel for the defence, lest the jury be influenced by such reply. In India, however, an accused person cannot, even when acquitted, consider himself out of trouble. In the Burdwan murder case the accused were acquitted by the Sessions Judge of Alipore, but the Government appealed against the acquittal on the ground that the Judge had misdirected the jury. The High Court has rejected the appeal.

Who is to be held responsible for the suffering and hardship to which the accused have been thus subjected?

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

9. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th August writes as follows:—

The position of the accused in a non-regulation district.

The rule in force in the non-regulation districts such as the Sonthal Parganas and the Chittagong Hill Tracts, that neither the prosecution nor the defence in a case shall be able to engage the services of a barrister, pleader or mukhtur without the permission of the Government is possible only in this country. In no other civilised country is such a rule to be found. Lately, the accused in a case in the Chittagong Hill Tracts applied to the Assistant Commissioner of Rangamati for permission to engage a barrister for their defence. The application was rejected. The Commissioner was appealed to, but in vain. The accused will thus be unable to properly defend themselves. Such a barbarous rule as this should be soon abolished.

HITAVADI.

A new way of dismissing complaints against European offenders.

10. The same paper learns from the *Behar Herald* that lately a native contractor had to go to Khagauli on some monetary business. As soon as he entered the office, a European employé of the East Indian Railway Company held him by the neck and turned him out of the room. The contractor, thus insulted, lodged a complaint in the Court of the Cantonment Magistrate of Dinapore, but he rejected the complaint on the ground that it was frivolous. Let a question be put to the Magistrate. If he is turned out of his court-room by anyone, will he take the affair as something very slight or frivolous? Since the ear-pulling case in the Calcutta Police Court the plea of frivolousness is being put forward in many cases. Will European Magistrates raise or allow such excuses in cases in which Europeans are thus insulted by natives?



11. The *Bangavasi* of the 13th August writes as follows:—

The case of Whellan. We are not sorry that Whellan has been acquitted; but we fail to understand why a mad European soldier should kill only natives. Whellan had a tussle with his comrades who tried to snatch his gun from his hands, but he did not assault any one of them and went out of his way to pierce the stomach of a punkha-cooly. Siva Thakurdada (Grandfather Siva) in the story, when mad, used to eat nothing but plantains and drink nothing but milk. Does a mad European soldier kill none but natives?

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 13th, 1898.

## (d)—Education.

## 12. In continuation of the article on the curtailment of the educational

Curtailment of educational expenditure in Chittagong.

expenditure of the Chittagong District Board by Mr. Manisty, Commissioner of the Division, published in its last issue (Report on Native Papers for 13th August, paragraph 6), the *Sansodhini* of the 10th August writes as follows:—

SANSODHINI,  
Aug. 10th, 1898.

If Englishmen can boast of anything in the degenerate India of to-day, it is the liberal educational policy laid down by Sir Charles Wood in his famous despatch of 1854 for the good of the Indian people. It is owing to that policy that Indians are getting high posts under Government, have been able to improve their literature and science and have introduced reforms in their religion and politics. It is a matter of regret, however, that the Government is not now-a-days following the policy which has been productive of such good results. On the plea of spreading education among the masses, it is curtailing the expenditure on high education, but it is not, as a matter of fact, increasing the expenditure on mass education. It is difficult to understand under what authority the Commissioner of the Chittagong Division has made a radical alteration of the grant on middle education which was fixed by Government in its letter No. 1174 of 1888, when making over charge of that education to the District Board. It is true the Board has increased its educational expenditure in proportion to the increase of its income from ferries and pounds, and it deserves thanks for this; but the increase in educational expenditure has not been in excess of what has become necessary in consideration of the increasing desire of the people to acquire knowledge. The Commissioner has failed to realise the necessity of increased educational expenditure, because he has little knowledge of the condition of the country.

Mr. Manisty is strongly opposed to middle and specially middle English, education. The writer fails to understand on what authority the Commissioner has laid down the principle that English teachers should not be employed in model schools, and the Board should not pay them. The course of study fixed by the Government for the primary schools being ludicrously inadequate to serve any educational purpose, it is necessary that the poor people of the country should be enabled to educate their sons up to the middle standard. As a matter of principle, the standard of primary education should be so extended as to include the Middle Scholarship Examination. The children of the well-to-do people do not now-a-days go to the middle schools, which are really full of the children of the poorer people. To strike a blow at those schools would therefore mean dealing a fatal blow to the education of the masses.

According to the Commissioner, those who want middle education ought to pay for it out of their own pockets. So, if Government refuses to bear the cost of middle education, the masses of the country will have to go without education unless zamindars and other rich people come forward to give it to them. But circumstanced as India is, with race distinction and caste distinction in full force, and with the high regarding the low with contempt, it is idle to expect the upper classes of society to help the poor masses in this matter. The Commissioner has only to interrogate the rich native gentlemen who come into contact with him to be satisfied that not one man among them ever spends a cowri for the education of his poor fellow-villagers.

The Commissioner wants the Chittagong District Board to spend not more than Rs. 13,146 a year on primary education. Government, on the other hand, has fixed one-tenth of the District Board's ordinary income as the minimum



limit of the Board's educational expenditure and has not fixed any maximum limit. The Chittagong District Board's ordinary income for the year 1898-99 has been estimated at Rs. 1,52,285 (*vide* Proceedings, dated the 9th May 1898). On the basis of this estimate, the educational expenditure of the Board, according to the Government order referred to above, ought to be, at least, Rs. 15,228 for the year in question. What ground has the Commissioner, then, to refuse the grant sanctioned in the budget? These figures do not include the Government grant of Rs. 20,825, which should have been included in the estimates as directed by Government Resolution No. 306T.M., dated the 28th June 1894. In that Resolution the Lieutenant-Governor clearly laid down that education was in no degree less necessary to the people than roads, &c. Mr. Manisty is certainly aware of this view of the Government. If he thinks that the proceeds of the road-cess should be devoted exclusively to the construction and repair of roads, &c., how has he allowed the allotment of Rs. 17,244 for medical purposes out of the Road-cess Fund—purposes to which Government does not contribute a rupee from the Provincial revenue?

It is a matter for consideration how the poor teachers of the middle schools will manage to live in this hard time if the Board's grants to those schools are discontinued. And it was, in fact, in this consideration that Dr. Martin issued a circular last year prohibiting any reduction of the salaries of these teachers.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

13. A correspondent refers in the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 12th August, to the deplorable condition of those Muhammadans who pass the final Arabic examination of the Madrassa and find no career open to them, save begging. They cannot educate their sons and they lead a miserable life themselves. To give them an opening, Government created a number of Marriage Registrarships, but the registration of divorce or marriage deeds not being compulsory and there being no prohibition of their registration at sub-registry offices, many of the marriage registrars are very badly off. In 1895, through the exertions of Maulvi Abdul Karim, B.A., the kind Government allowed the Madrassa students to appear at the Mukhtarship Examination. In the same manner, if those among them who know Bengali are allowed to appear at the Pleadership Examination and plead in either Bengali or Urdu, there may yet be some improvement in their condition and prospects.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

14. Roscoe's Chemistry, writes the *Hitavadi* of the 12th August, has replaced Remsen in the F.A. course. Those who have not passed the F.A. Examination this year will be put to great inconvenience in having to master the contents of a new book. It is to be hoped that next year, as in the year 1897, the University authorities will set two papers in chemistry, one on the new and another on the old text-book.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 13th, 1898.

15. It is said, writes the *Bangavasi* of the 13th August, that while inspecting the Comilla Girls' School the Lieutenant-Governor asked whether all the girls there were English-educated Hindu girls. Brahmo girls. He was told that they were, with a few exceptions, Hindus. Upon this the Lieutenant-Governor wanted to know of what use was English education likely to prove to a Hindu girl. He was told that it would enable a girl to be well married. This is not true. An English-educated youth may, with a view to marriage, examine an English-educated girl in book-knowledge. But B.A.'s and M.A.'s with no stake in the country are not, in the writer's opinion, desirable husbands for Hindu girls. A Hindu youth who has a house of his own, who is in well-to-do circumstances, who is respected in society and who belongs to an orthodox family, will not marry an English-educated girl. The Lieutenant-Governor ought to have been told that the girls in question were not Hindu girls, but daughters of Babu-Hindus.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 8th, 1898.

16. Referring to the interpellation in the Bengal Council on the subject of cattle-pound oppression, the *Charu Mihir* of the 8th August says that Raja Sasisekhareswar Rai has earned the gratitude of the poor people in the mufassal by bringing to the notice of the Government the suffering and hardship they have to put up with owing to the leasing out of the pounds. True,



no one ever complained of pound oppression, but that is because those who are oppressed cannot approach the Government. If a proper enquiry is made, the Government will come to know that every word of the Raja is true. The Hon'ble Mr. Risley has not shown much wisdom by referring Raja Sasisekhar to the District Boards for the removal of the grievances complained of. If the Boards are not forced to do away with the system of leasing out pounds to *izardars*—the root of every evil in this connection—they will not do so.

17. According to the *Pallivasi* of the 10th August there is much oppression in connection with the municipal pound at Kalna in the Burdwan district. The pound-keeper is not often found at his post by those who go to the pound to release cattle. Again, when an animal has been only one day in the pound, the owner, if he happens not to know the rules, is made to pay three days' fine. Other complaints, too, are heard against the management of the pound.

PALLIVASI,  
Aug. 10th, 1898.

18. One of the nominated Commissioners of the Jaynagar Municipality in the 24-Parganas district having recently died, the *Sanjivani* of the 13th August suggests to the Collector of the district that Babu Kalinath Datta of Majilpur, who had, since the creation of the Municipality, been a Commissioner, Vice-Chairman and President of the Municipal Bench of Honorary Magistrates, should be appointed in his place. Babu Kalinath has done signal services to the people residing within this Municipality.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 13th, 1898.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

19. The *Charu Mihir* of the 8th August has the following:—

How the cultivator can be benefited.

The Government and the courts think that the cultivators will be rescued from the clutches of the *mahajan* if the sale of their holdings be stopped. But the effect of making such holdings non-saleable has been the very reverse of what was anticipated. Holdings being now non-saleable, the *mahajans*, who used to save the cultivators by advancing their money, now not only get no interest, but their very principal is imperilled. On the other hand, failing to obtain loans, the cultivators cannot grow crops. Formerly they raised money by transferring their lands to the *mahajans* for long terms, thereby buying corn themselves, while the *mahajans* enjoyed their lands. The cultivator has gained nothing by the legislative prohibition placed on the sale of their *jotes*.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 8th, 1898.

We do not agree in the view that lower rates of interest than what cultivators have to pay at present will save them. No *mahajan* will agree to advance money to the cultivator at lower rates of interest. Cultivators will, in many places, suffer for want of funds. The cultivators are not, as a rule, in easy circumstances, as some appear to think. They cannot, in most cases, do without borrowing. So, if obstructions be put in the way of their borrowing money their condition must become worse. The proposal that the *mahajans* should lower the rate of interest is not also a good one for the cultivators. If the cultivators are to be saved they must have loans at a low rate of interest and without having to travel far from home. And by this is meant the establishment of agricultural banks by Government in different parts of the country. There is no other way of helping the cultivators.

20. The *Sansodhini* of the 10th August says that whilst energy and capital have turned vast tracts of the Sahara desert into cultivable land, the apathy of the Government and the zamindars and the apathy, idleness and poverty of the raiyats are fast reducing the fertility of the soil in Bengal, which was once famed for its producing power. The writer makes the following suggestions for the agricultural improvement of Bengal:—

SANSODHINI,  
Aug. 10th, 1898.

(1) As there is a rule requiring the spending of a certain proportion of the income of every court of wards and khas mahal estate on the improvement of the lands comprised therein, so should Government make a law compelling every zamindar to spend a certain fraction of his income on agricultural improvement within his zamindari.



(2) No raiyat should be allowed to employ weak and incapacitated cattle in agricultural operations.

(3) An agricultural bank should be established by Government in every district, for the purpose of lending money to raiyats at low rates of interest in order to enable them to use good manure and buy good healthy cattle. Government's duty in the matter of agricultural improvement does not certainly end with the establishment of an agricultural college at Sibpur.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 13th, 1898.

21. The *Sanjivani* of the 13th August has received the following list, prepared from applications for takavi advances in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district:—

NAMES OF CULTIVATORS.			Amount of debt.	Annual interest.	Produce of the land at Rs. 20 per <i>pakhi</i> .
1			2	3	4
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Rajnath Pramanik	...	...	145 0 0	65 10 0	180 0 0
Jaichand Pramanik	...	...	158 0 0	49 12 0	80 0 0
Gani Shaikh	...	...	75 0 0	36 6 0	60 0 0
Karim Shaikh	...	...	110 0 0	59 13 6	140 0 0
Lachar Shaikh	...	...	150 0 0	112 8 0	280 0 0
Kutabali Shaikh	...	...	233 0 0	122 4 0	200 0 0
Hossein Shaikh	...	...	199 0 0	The <i>mahajan</i> takes the produce of 8 <i>pakhis</i> of land as interest.	
Mahar Mallik	...	...	50 0 0	The <i>mahajan</i> takes the produce of 3 <i>pakhis</i> of land as interest.	
Jalish Shaikh	...	...	220 0 0	54 6 0	100 0 0
Kader Khan	...	...	245 0 0	66 12 0	180 0 0
Fuljan Bewa	...	...	58 8 0	46 8 0	100 0 0
Sadar Shaikh	...	...	179 0 0	87 8 9	180 0 0
Munshi Karigar	...	...	100 0 0	75 0 0	180 0 0
Ismail Shaikh	...	...	119 0 0	89 4 0	80 0 0
Mathur Pramanik	...	...	81 0 0	102 7 0	80 0 0
Iswar Pramanik	...	...	138 0 0	The <i>mahajan</i> takes the produce of 6 <i>pakhis</i> of land.	
Atal Bewa	...	...	237 0 0	The <i>mahajan</i> takes the produce of 7 <i>pakhis</i> of land.	
Ramchand Pramanik	...	...	131 0 0	123 0 0	90 0 0
Brajavasi Pramanik	...	...	83 0 0	47 4 0	80 0 0
Damu Khan	...	...	315 0 0	387 8 0	280 0 0
Radhanath Pramanik	...	...	150 0 0	The <i>mahajan</i> takes the produce of 6 <i>pakhis</i> of land as interest.	
Abbas Shaikh	...	...	78 0 0	58 8 0	140 0 0
Manibuddi Shaikh	...	...	105 0 0	61 14 0	85 0 0

What a fearful state of things does this list reveal! Rupees 102 is the annual interest on Rs. 81! If a cultivator whose annual income is Rs. 85 has to pay Rs. 60 as interest, how can he meet the zamindar's rent and the cost of maintaining his family? For some years the *mahajans* have been taking land in lieu of interest. But if the land goes to the *mahajan*, the cultivator must be tormented by hunger throughout the year.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

22. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* of the 12th August complains that since the transfer of the Halsia road in Kushtia, in the Nadia district, from the Local to the District Board it has run into a very miserable condition. It is an unmetalled road and has become almost impassable in the rains. There are ruts in the road, which have made it quite dangerous to wayfarers.



23. The road from Talma to Faridpur, says the *Sanjay* of the 12th August, being in a state of utter disrepair, causes great inconvenience to the hundreds of people who have to use it every day. Its repair will cost the District Board less than the construction of the proposed road through Dhol-samudra.

SANJAY,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

24. The *Sanjivani* of the 13th August has the following:—

Loss of goods on railways and steamers.

On the 20th June last Babu Prasanna Kumar Bose sent four packages of goods to Porabari, from two of which articles valued at Rs. 70 were abstracted. Prasanna Babu, having complained to the Traffic Superintendent at Sealdah, received the following reply:—"I have transferred it to the Superintendent, Mail Service, R. S. N. Co. Goalundo, for disposal." The Mail Service Superintendent wrote to him:—"As the consignee granted a clear receipt at the time of taking delivery of the packages, I regret I cannot entertain your claim in this case." So the Railway and the Steamer Company shook off their responsibility and Prasanna Babu became a loser. The consignee who found the locks all right did not naturally suspect anything wrong and so granted a receipt.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 13th, 1898.

There is no knowing what a large quantity of goods is lost or stolen on railways and steamers every day, but neither is any investigation made nor is any check put on these practices. When complaints are made, they are dismissed as groundless. The conductor of the train or steamer which conveyed Prasanna Babu's goods should have been taken to task. It is the indifference of the authorities which encourages such thefts.

(h)—General.

25. The *Pallivasi* of the 10th August has the following:—

The new newspaper postal rates.

Several newspapers ceased to exist when the Sedition Act was passed; and many others, both in town and in the mufassal, will meet with a similar fate when the new postal rates for newspapers come into force.

PALLIVASI,  
Aug. 10th, 1898.

The *Bangavasi* is glad to hear of the increase of one tola. He is glad, because he will now be able to increase his size and write more fully. But we, and many others like us in the mufassal, feel disappointed. Not one of the new rules will benefit us. It is not that we shall gain nothing by these rules; these rules will positively hamper us. Perhaps we shall be obliged to stop.

In this poor country only cheap newspapers sell. But where the subscription is small, the entire management ought to be cheap. It is in this view that the kind-hearted Lord Ripon sanctioned the introduction of cheap postal rates. Nor is this all. Exchange copies, too, will henceforward have to be paid for. It is impossible to conduct a paper without reading other papers. The mufassal papers, for instance, cannot do without the Calcutta papers and the Calcutta papers cannot do without the mufassal papers. The daily papers cannot be expected to pay postage for the two to three hundred copies they exchange with mufassal papers. That will mean a loss of at least five to six thousand rupees.

26. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th August is glad to see Mr. Risley appointed to officiate for Mr. Stephen Jacob, Financial Secretary to the Government of India. Mr. Risley is an able man and his promotion has given satisfaction to the writer.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

The same paper advises the postal authorities to introduce the system of continuous postal delivery in all the Calcutta post-offices. The system of continuous postal delivery is a very convenient one; its advantages are very great. Reforms should also be introduced into the village post-offices. There are villages in which letters, &c., are not regularly delivered even once every day and peons are very remiss and negligent. All these defects should be removed.

HITAVADI.

27. The same paper has the following:—

"The plague expedition."

The Europeans had never seen such a sight before. Such ocular proofs of the poverty of the town, such clear and unmistakable evidence of filth and dirtiness had never before crossed their eyes. Unfortunately, however, no plague was discovered

HITAVADI



in the *basti*; no plague patient could be seen by the visitors. Most probably plague had taken to flight before the inspecting party appeared on the scene. What a pity that all these preparations, all this trouble and annoyance were in vain! No patient, alas, could be carried to the Maniktala *yamalay* (house of death)! Plague symptoms were not and could not be discovered in a single individual still living in the *basti*! But the members of this plague expedition were men not to be easily dispirited or baffled. Most of them at once came to the conclusion that so much filthiness could not but be associated with plague. There was no contradicting this opinion, and it was decided then and there that the *basti* should be cleared and disinfected. The lodgers were prepared to leave the huts if they received compensation. The *basti*, therefore, will most probably be put to the test of fire. Those whose occupation was all but gone on the disappearance of the plague will have something to do now. Burning of *bastis* and cleansing of the town will now keep them employed and will, we hope, justify their existence.

It is said that most of those who were found living in this insanitary *basti* are confectioners and vendors of sweetmeats. Most of them are in the habit of hawking sweetmeats round the town. It is, therefore, natural that the authorities should suspect that they have spread plague germs all over Calcutta. The authorities have been thrown into great anxiety, and we shall be glad if our Bombay doctors get no headache on this account. These doctors and nurses are our great well-wishers and are in great anxiety on our account, and it is not strange that they should be tormented by the suspicion that plague germ, have been spread all over the town by these *basti* confectioners. It is, however passing strange that no plague patient was found in a *basti* where 14 deaths from plague are said to have occurred. It is much more strange that the eating of sweetmeats cooked in this hotbed of plague should not induce the disease in a single individual.

The *Englishman* of Tuesday last gave an account of another insanitary *basti* situated in Barabazar. We have no doubt about the existence of such dark and filthy *bastis* in the town. There are in this town hundreds of poor unfortunate people whose dwellings are far worse than the holes in which wild animals live. Such dark spots are not, however, the characteristic of Calcutta and Calcutta alone. They are to be found in large towns and cities all over the world. The London slums, for instance, so vividly described by English writers, beat the Calcutta *bastis* hollow. Calcutta cannot certainly beat London in filthiness.

But let that pass. Let *bastis* be cleared, let filth be removed, let huts be burned. We will not object to that. But we very much fear that taxation will have to be increased if on the merest suspicion of the existence of plague a plague expedition goes out determined to attack all the dirty and insanitary quarters of the town simultaneously. The Municipality is going to contract a loan, and it is sure to be on the brink of bankruptcy if it has to take up the task of cleansing the town. We are by no means averse to cleanliness, but we cannot but take into consideration the enormous expense which is likely to be incurred in improving the sanitation of the town all at once. We must have to pay the plague officers up to the end of the winter, and it will go hard with us if an additional burden of expenditure is imposed on us.

SAMAY,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

28. The *Samay* of the 12th August learns that a senior assistant in the office of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy having obtained a transfer to the Home Office, there is a talk of appointing a son of the Viceroy's Nazim in his place, to the exclusion of those who have been serving in the same office with credit.

SANJIVANI,  
Aug. 13th, 1898.

29. The *Sanjivani* of the 13th August says that a servant of Babu Tinkari Nandi of 22, Anthony Bagan Lane, having fallen ill with fever, was sent to hospital, where he was admitted as a plague patient. If this is a case of plague then it must be said that there is no plague in Calcutta. The common belief is that the plague patients of the authorities are no plague patients at all. Mr. Greer and several other Europeans went to catch plague in Rup Chand Ray's lane, Barabazar, and though there was no trace of plague they suspected that 14 persons had died of it there.



30. The *Bangavasi* of the 13th August is glad to learn that Mr. Risley is going to be appointed Financial Secretary to the Government of India. Mr. Risley is an ornament of the Bengal Civil Service, and he enjoys a European reputation for learning. His promotion is an honour done to Bengal Civilians.

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 13th, 1898.

31. The same paper has the following on the appointment of Babu Prafulla Chandra Banerji as Officiating Deputy Postmaster-General of Bihar:—

BANGAVASI.

Babu Prafulla Chandra Banerji's promotion.

Prafulla Babu is a Bengali officer of eminence in the Postal Department. There are people who say that if he had been a European, he would have by this time got a much higher post. Prafulla Babu is a Brahman. By virtue of his *karma* he has been born a Brahman in India, the land of *karma*. By virtue of his *karma*, also, he has had, though a Brahman, to enter the Government service. What has been done has been done, and we do not like to see him turn out a *Firinghi* or a European. We do not wish that he were a European. His promotion has pleased us.

### III.—LEGISLATIVE.

32. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th August has the following on the Bengal Municipal Bill:—

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

The Bengal Municipal Bill.

The chief object of the Government is to increase the number of the representatives of the Calcutta trading bodies in the Calcutta Municipality. The late Lieutenant-Governor has called the Native Commissioners "adventurers." Adventurers indeed! Those who are born and have a stake in the country are adventurers and not they who come to this country from over the seas and live in rented houses! Let the will of the late Lieutenant-Governor be done, and we have no objection to the increase in the number of European Commissioners. The European Commissioners are not natives of this country. They live here only for a short time, and it need not be said how little interest they have in the promotion of the sanitation of Calcutta. But still we do not object to the proposal of the Government. We do object, not to the increase of European Commissioners, but to the decrease of Native Commissioners. We object to the proposed change in the constitution of the Municipality and to the proposed curtailment of the powers of the Commissioners.

We do not think that it is now too late to object to the proposed measure. It has been approved by the Secretary of State, its principles have been supported in the Legislative Council and its provisions have been considered and discussed in the Select Committee. All this is true, but it is also true that the existing Municipal Act differs materially from the Bill of which it was the outcome. What has once been done can again be done. As for the Secretary of State's approval of the Bill, here is what His Lordship wrote to the Governor-General in Council:—

"I accept the view taken by your Government and by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, that some change is required in the Calcutta Municipal Law with a view to strengthening the executive; and I approve of the proposal that the bodies which represent the trade of Calcutta should have a voice on the General Committee of 12 members which will be the executive of the new Municipality."

Let us carefully consider what the Secretary of State says. He says that "some change is required," but he does not say that the principles of the Bill should be revolutionised. He says that "the bodies which represent the trade of Calcutta should have a voice on the General Committee," but he does not say that these commercial bodies should have the upper-hand in that Committee. The Secretary of State, moreover, calls the General Committee an executive body. But will the proposed measure leave to it any real executive powers?

33. The *Bangavasi* of the 13th August has the following on the section in the Calcutta Municipal Bill under which a dead body cannot be burned or buried after 8 P.M. without the permission of the Chairman:—

BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 13th, 1898.

The burning of the dead under the new Municipal Bill.

In religious rites and ceremonies the people of Bengal are ruled by the opinion of the Pandits of Bhatpara. Here is the substance of the opinion of



one of the leading Bhatpara Pandits on the religious aspect of the section in question :—

From one sunrise to another sunrise is a *Savan* day, by which standard the period of *asauch*, i.e., the period for which a Hindu looks upon himself as unclean on the death of a person or on other occasions, is computed. Any portion of the first *Savan* day is also looked upon as one day. If a person dies within a *Savan* day and his dead body is not burned within that day, his corpse becomes *basi mara*, that is to say, it becomes a corpse which has been kept unburned within the *Savan* day. In a case of *sahamara*, i.e., the wife's burning herself with the dead body of her husband and in a few other cases of a similarly urgent nature, a corpse can be kept unburned for one *Savan* day and one *Savan* day only. This is the reason why there is no harm, from the *Sastric* point of view, if the corpse of a person dying immediately before sunrise is not burned before that sunrise or if cremation is delayed by the removal of the corpse to the river bank. It is going against the declared intention of the Rishis to allow a corpse to become *basi* except in the cases in which that can be done with the sanction of the *Sastras*. If we go against the intention of the Rishis in such cases, the manes of our ancestors will not be able to rise to the higher spheres. There is another point to be considered. A Hindu has to offer *pinda* soon after the cremation of a dead body. The Brahman has to observe *asauch* for ten days and offer a *pinda* every day. The Sudra has to observe *asauch* for a month and to offer nine *pindas* on the first nine days and the tenth *pinda* on the last day of the *asauch*. If, therefore, a dead body is not cremated within the first *Savan* day, the time for the offering of the first *pinda* will pass away, which is against the *Sastras*. It is true that people in these days sometimes delay the offering of the *pinda*, but one wrong does not justify another, and the Government ought not to compel a single pious Hindu to violate the *Sastras*, because there are Hindus who violate it.

HINDI BANGAVASI,  
Aug. 15th, 1898.

34. The *Hindi Bangavasi* of the 15th August says that one looks with fear at the Municipal Bill. It will not matter if there be not a single Hindu Commissioner in the Calcutta Corporation; but the Bill should not in any way interfere with the religion and customs of the Hindus. If the provisions regulating the burning of dead bodies are not modified, the Hindus will have to leave Calcutta.

#### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

35. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th August publishes another picture of the distress in Chittagong. It is a group of famine-stricken men, women and children and is headed—  
“Acute scarcity in Chittagong.” The following is written in this connection :—

This is a picture of the famine-stricken in village Chambal. This village is in a miserable plight. There are no rich men in the village. Almost all are in a helpless condition, and they cannot expect to get anything by borrowing. Most of them have been reduced to skeleton. This picture is a copy of the photograph taken by the editor of the *Jyoti* of these famine-stricken people on the 3rd July last.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

36. Referring to the deficient rainfall of this year, the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* of the 12th August suggests that where there is no river, canal or *beel*, wells can be sunk at a nominal cost. A few cultivators can club together and sink a few wells in their fields and thus remove the difficulty arising from deficient rainfall. Every part of Bengal not being equally moist, the cost of sinking wells will not be the same everywhere. In the Burdwan Division a well can be sunk for Rs. 4; elsewhere for Rs. 2. The zamindars should help their tenants in this matter. Much good will be done if Sir John Woodburn instructs the Divisional Commissioners to make small advances to *raiyats* to enable them to sink wells. There is yet time this year, for the rains have made the soil soft, and wells can now be sunk at a comparatively small cost.

DACCA GAZETTE,  
Aug. 15th, 1898.

37. The *Dacca Gazette* of the 15th August has the following :—

Government in the Chittagong  
distress.

The *Jyoti* is prepared to prove the truth of everything that has appeared in it in connection with the distress in Chittagong; and it is bound to



do so if the Government calls upon it to do so. The way in which the Divisional Commissioner and the District Magistrate have enquired into the scarcity is not satisfactory. Only a head-constable was sent to enquire, as is done in a case of petty theft, and his report was corrected by the Inspector. It is a wonder how the local authorities could rely on the subordinate police in a serious matter, involving the life and death of thousands of people. It is to be hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will not remain satisfied with the police report. If, however, this report is taken to be correct, the Government ought to take to task the *Jyoti* for calling it a false report. The Government must either admit the account of the distress given in the *Jyoti* as true or call upon that paper to explain its conduct. Nothing short of this will satisfy the public. Indeed, the pertinacity with which the *Jyoti* dwelt on the subject of the distress and Mr. Finucane's vague reply to the questions put in the Council on this subject have convinced the public that there is scarcity in certain portions of the Chittagong district.

As Sir John Woodburn visited Comilla in the course of his recent tour in the eastern districts; he ought to have visited Chittagong, where the officials give a version of the distress quite opposed to that published in the local paper, the *Jyoti*.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

38. Referring to the remarks of Raja Peary Mohan Mukharji on the Congress, the *Charu Mihir* of the 8th August says:—Those who have any experience of the mufassal will not say that the masses of the people have become turbulent. Considering the number of calamities that have befallen the country this year, it is not strange that distressed people should have here and there forgotten themselves. We do not know how long Raja Peary Mohan has cut off his connection with the Congress, but an educated zamindar like him should not have expressed such ill-feeling against it with a view to promote the interests of the zamindar class. Everyone understands that a few faithless sons of India abuse the Congress in order to secure the sympathy of the officials. But such mean practices will never serve their purpose.

CHARU MIHIR,  
Aug. 8th, 1898.

39. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* of the 10th August thinks that the attention of every well-wisher of the country ought to be drawn to the speech of Raja Peary Mohan Mukharji at the British Indian Association.

MURSHIDABAD  
HITAISHI,  
Aug. 10th, 1898.

40. The *Hindu Ranjika* of the 10th August has the following:—

Early marriage and works of fiction in Bengali.

The Lieutenant-Governor asked Rai Kali Prasanna Ghosh Bahadur, of Dacca:—"How is it that there are no good novels in Bengali?" And the Rai Bahadur's reply was to the following effect:—"There is early marriage in Bengali society, so that there is no play of love among the men and women who constitute that society. There can be no novel when there is no play of love, and this is why no good novels are being produced in Bengali." Commenting on this, the *Sanjivani* says:—"There is no improvement, not only of the novel, but also of science, philosophy, poetry, history, and all other subjects. It has become necessary to enquire why the Bengali intellect is showing this growing weakness." We, too, say the same. It would require no play of love to produce good science, philosophy, poetry, and history. And yet, why is there no improvement in these subjects? The *Sanjivani* lays the blame at the door of early marriage, but we do not concur in that view. The fact is, at the present time many Bengalis are becoming masters of tall-talk and worthless writing. These speakers create a great noise by their declamation, while these writers, with a stroke of their pen, solve questions of war and of European politics and philosophy in the most light-hearted manner. There can certainly be no improvement for a people whose brain is exercised for such worthless purposes. Intellectually, the Bengali is inferior to no people in the world, but the Bengali's intellect is exercised not on questions of real importance, but on the most trivial matters. This is why the Bengali shows no improvement, and there are no good novels or philosophical or poetical works in that language.

HINDU RANJIKA,  
Aug. 10th, 1898.

You may say that it is owing to early marriage that there are no heroes in the country, and that the people are weak. But what if they are? It is not



necessary for us to fight for the protection of the country; that task is entrusted to Government: what the people are now required to do is to try to support and improve themselves. They should direct their attention to such matters as these. For the purpose of discussing public affairs and representing our wants and grievances, we have held Congresses and Provincial Conferences. But have we done anything to improve our agriculture, manufactures, and commerce? Our cloths and needles and yarns and safety matches all come from foreign countries. What have we done to improve our material condition? Government, for its part, has opened agricultural classes in the Sibpur Engineering College, but what measures have we adopted with the view of improving the country's agriculture?

HITAVADI,  
Aug. 12th, 1898.

41. The *Hitavadi* of the 12th August has the following:—

Raja Peary Mohan Mukharji's anniversary meeting of British Indian Association has taken us by surprise. His fault-finding with the Congress and the Indian populace has painfully surprised us. When a man of his position and intelligence finds fault with the Congress and his countrymen, it is necessary that we should enquire how far his complaints are true.

The riots and disturbances of the public peace, which were so much rife last year, have evidently offended the Raja Bahadur and thrown him into anxiety. He has come to the conclusion that the Indian masses are gradually becoming addicted to lawlessness and have become easily excitable. Formerly the people were in the habit of going to the Government for the redress of their grievances and knew how to suffer patiently and silently if no relief came to them. But their nature and inclinations have become vitiated nowadays, and they take the law into their own hands and resort to force to achieve their object. It is the conviction of the Raja Bahadur that this change in the nature and habits of the people has been brought about either by defects in their education, or by bad examples set to them by the Congress. The Raja Bahadur has shown unexampled loyalty by drawing the attention of the Government to this state of things.

It is true that last year lawlessness was rather rampant in the country and that the people, as if in a fit of momentary insanity, rushed into riots. But it should be considered how far these riots were due to the causes to which the Raja Bahadur attributes them. It should be enquired whether the nature and inclinations of the people have become really vitiated, and, if so, whether this change is due to the existing system of education, or to the example set by the Congress. We do not know whether there is any foundation for the Raja Bahadur's belief, but a little reflection will show that his queer opinion cannot be accepted.

In the first place, it is a fact that the nature and inclinations of the people have not become vitiated. The people have committed riots, but they have not committed riots under the impression that nothing but a recourse to violence will make the Government listen to their prayers. A little enquiry will show that in almost all cases the riots have been due either to sectarian quarrels or to a desire to maintain the honour of women. The cow riots, for example, are all due to sectarian quarrels instigated by evil-minded people or by people who are not inclined to abide by the law; sedition has nothing to do with these riots. As for the plague riots they were caused by the impression that violence was being done to female honour. We need not discuss for the present whether this impression was well or ill-founded, but this is certain that the people, blinded by this impression, went off their heads and quarrelled with the plague officers.

During the severe famine, hundreds of people died for want of food, but none of them took to looting. This does not show that the nature and inclinations of the people of this country have become vitiated. The Indian people do not like the idea of showing force or of compelling the authorities to listen to their prayers by committing riots and other disturbances. The people may, and as a matter of fact do, criticise the doings of the authorities, but they never think it at all advisable to oppose them by force. In almost all the cases in which they have assaulted plague officers, they have done so either with the object of maintaining the honour of women, or under the impression that violence was going to be done to female honour. We are not, therefore,



prepared to accept the Raja Bahadur's opinion until he can prove its correctness—unless he can show that the nature and inclinations of the people have really undergone a change. As a matter of fact, the zamindars have more to do with riots and disturbances than the general population.

This will, we hope, be enough for the purpose of showing that the nature and inclinations of the people have not undergone a change—that the people are not gradually giving up their peaceful habits and becoming addicted to lawlessness. The people no doubt try to have their grievances redressed by lawful means, but they never think of going against the Government or taking to seditious means to achieve their object.

When the Raja Babu found fault with the present system of education and the conduct of the Congress people, he forgot several things. The Raja Bahadur's father, the late Babu Jaykrishna Mukharji took great interest in the education of the masses and founded schools for the purpose of promoting education. Was he not, in a large measure, responsible for the present system of education? The *Raja* Mukharji's father, *Babu* Mukharji was not a less conspicuous or a less honoured character than his son. He joined the Congress movement. He was a blind man, but still he attended the second Congress and made a stirring speech which his son ought not to have forgotten. Does he not remember that he himself was one of the Congress leaders only a short time ago? Let his opinions change, but why should he try to cast unjust aspersions upon the character of those who were once his colleagues? The Congress advises the people to adopt constitutional means of agitation and not to take the law into their own hands. The Congress is an association of educated people; the uneducated masses do not know anything about it. Those who take part in the Congress movement are educated. Those who commit riots and disturbances are uneducated. The Raja Bahadur has unfortunately forgotten all these things. We shall be glad if this forgetfulness has not been due to self-interest or to a desire to please the European community in India.

42. The same paper has the following :—

The Pillars of the State.

Raja Peary Mohan Mukharji made the following statement in his speech at the anniversary meeting of the British Indian Association :—

"It should be borne in mind that men of wealth and station, men who have a large stake in the country, are the real pillars of the State; that anything which strikes at their influence and authority re-acts on the strength of the Government; that even in a subject country the concentration of all power in the hands of public functionaries is an element of weakness and not of strength to the State; and that no useful purpose has ever been gained by the demolition of those social gradations on the existence of which depend not only the peace and happiness of the community, but also the very stability of Government."

The sum and substance of these vaunting and sounding words is this :—  
"We are zamindars, ours is a God-given power; we shall, therefore, lord it over the people, and they should serve us like slaves. We are not of the common herd of men, and by treating us with contempt the Government is only dealing a death-blow to our prestige in the country. We are the heads of the people; weaken us and you weaken the State. In a word, we are the pillars of the country, but few pay us the respect that is due to us. This is why we complain. There is, indeed, no end to our misery."

In this country, the Rajas are naturally in the forefront of the population; they are our leaders and the ornaments of our society. It does not cost them any the least trouble or inconvenience to maintain their high rank and position. Whenever and wherever they have lost their prestige they have lost it owing to their own fault. They may not really possess any God-given power and prestige, but they can naturally enough pride themselves on the homage paid to them by men. But who can save them from degradation if they themselves fail to maintain their power and prestige?

The value of titles has been depreciated because they can now be had by flattery and other ignoble means. Babu Jatindra Mohan Tagore, son of Babu Harakumar Tagore has become a hereditary, but titular, Maharaja; but will people respect and honour him as they respect and honour the Maharaja of Cashmere? The Maharaja's antecedents are well known. When he supported

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the Vernacular Press Act, did he not sacrifice the interests of his country and his countrymen in order to further his own interests? But he is a clever man. He has kept the public well satisfied with his conduct, and they have forgotten his faults in the expectation that he will yet do good to them.

Raja Peary Mohan, too, has spared no pains to injure his poor countrymen. Will his title wash off the stain cast on his fair fame by his supporting the measure which has taxed the poor man's salt? He has been made a Raja and will probably be soon made a Maharaja, but the people will not be easily able to place any confidence in him.

Rai Kristo Das Pal Bahadur, Raja Rajendra Lal Mitra and others who shed lustre on the British Indian Association owed their honour and prestige, not to their titles, but to their merit. Raja Peary Mohan possesses many good qualities: he is a man of means, a man of power. Let him make a good and proper use of all the resources at his command and he will be able to leave a lasting name behind him. But if he does not do this, and still wants the people to obey and respect him and his class, he is sure to be disappointed. It is not true that the common people in this country no longer obey and respect the zamindars. Go to a village and you will see the zamindar invariably honoured and respected. The quarrels between zamindars and raiyats are all about the rent. Such quarrels always occur and shall always occur. But it goes without saying that, in spite of these quarrels and differences, the zamindars as a class are obeyed and respected by the raiyats. It is, of course, quite another thing if the zamindars want to oppress the raiyats and at the same time want that they should not protest against such oppression. It is hopeless to expect in this civilised world that the raiyats will silently bear oppression by their zamindars in the belief that their rank and power are God-given.

To be the head of a country one must bear the country's burden. High wind blows on high hills. One who is really great cannot be brought down from his eminent position. The greatness of the great will ever remain intact. To be the head of a country one must be prepared to make great sacrifices, to suffer great privations. Anyone and everyone cannot be the head of a country. The "pillars of the State" ought to remember that it is the people who make the State. If the welfare and prosperity of the people are not promoted, the foundations of the State will be shaken, let the pillars be as thick and as strong as possible. Oppressive zamindars should be encouraged no more than disobedient raiyats. It should be the paramount duty of the Government to see that the Indian subjects of Her Gracious Majesty are not oppressed and trampled down by rich, powerful and oppressive zamindars. We have seen zamindars getting up false cases against raiyats and driving them out of house and home. We have seen them depriving poor Brahmans of their Brahmottar lands. We have seen them prosecuting and persecuting the raiyats and ruining them with expensive litigation. It should be the paramount duty of the Government to keep such zamindars in check. We would not have had to say all these things if the heads of the country had tried to reform themselves. Unfortunately, however, we are always blind to our own faults, and this is why we have to hear unpleasant things.

#### ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAK,  
July 30th, 1898.

43. The *Paridarsak* of the 30th July wants to know for what purpose grass is every evening brought by prisoners into the Sylhet Jail. If it is brought for sale in the bazar, are the sale-proceeds credited to the Government? Or is it brought, following the practice in the Bengal jails, for any cows which may be kept for supply of milk to invalid prisoners? The writer will be glad to learn that it is brought for the latter purpose.

PARIDARSAK.

44. The same paper draws attention to the alarmingly insanitary condition of Sylhet town and says that the town, which some 20 years ago was regarded as a sanitarium, has now become a hotbed of malaria and various other diseases, which are carrying off thousands every year and threaten to depopulate it in the course of a few years more. The municipality cannot

Cause of the insanitary condition of Sylhet town.



be blamed for this state of things, because it is doing everything to improve the health of the town proper. The fact is that while the northern and southern parts of the town are well drained by the Surma and the channels flowing into it, the two villages, Rainagar and Akhalia, in the eastern and western suburbs of it respectively, are in a most abominable condition on account of both bad drainage and bad water-supply. It will be no exaggeration to say that the villages in question have got no proper drains at all; and although a few wells and tanks have of recent years been excavated there, their number is quite inadequate considering the population to be served. Babu Sanatan Som, of Akhalia made various proposals to the Local Board for the sanitary improvement of Rainagar and his own village; but beyond excavating a tank in Akhalia and digging an ordinary well in Shibganj, the Board took no notice of his suggestions. From the experience of the last two years, it can be positively affirmed that the malarial poison spreads to the town proper from the eastern and western suburbs, where it is first developed. It is hoped that the Local Board, which is about to be constituted, will grapple with the question, because without its help the municipality will fail to improve the health of the town.

45. The same paper asks if the pound-keeper of Sylhet, who was convicted and fined Rs. 10 for charging more than the prescribed fee for an impounded calf belonging to Babu Baikuntha Nath Gupta, mukhtar, should not forfeit his lease for violating one of its terms, and if the pound should not be put up to auction again. Why such a case of extortion has cropped up under the existing system and was never heard of before is easily understood. Government now farms out pounds to the men who make the highest bids, and only for the term of one year. It is perfectly natural that such a farmer should not only keep and feed the impounded animals in the most niggardly fashion possible, but should also commit extortions on the owners of the animals. The authorities in Sylhet see with their own eyes the miserable place where the impounded animals are kept, but they never take any steps to have its condition improved. Why, indeed, should a man who has got a lease of the pound for only a year erect anything but a cheap and temporary structure to house impounded animals? The management of pounds will continue to fall into the hands of greedy farmers to the inconvenience and hardship of the public so long as Government will adhere to the present system of farming them out by the year to the highest bidders.

46. The same paper says that the people of Sylhet have been this time quite disappointed in Babu Sasi Bhusan Sen, who has been once more appointed as the Subordinate Judge of that district. His conduct has surprised everybody. He abuses witnesses, and even the pleaders do not always escape his sarcasm. It is hoped that for the sake of his former good name, Babu Sasi Bhusan will see fit to retire from the service, as he has passed his fifty-fifth year.

47. The same paper has heard that Mr. Cotton, Chief Commissioner of Assam, has made a proposal to the Government of India for the appointment of a first-class District Judge in Sylhet. The writer has more than once dwelt on the necessity of such an appointment, but without effect. The district will be fortunate if, thanks to Mr. Cotton, the proposal is carried into effect, and it gets a wise, able, and experienced officer at the head of its judicial administration. Failure of civil justice will then no more be heard of in Sylhet.

48. The same paper hopes that the Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet will grant the prayer of the brother of the man who was murdered in Mainpur within the jurisdiction of the Balaganj outpost for a re-investigation of the case, and, considering the mysteries which were unravelled in the course of the police investigation, will direct a fresh investigation to be made by a Magistrate.

49. The same paper draws attention to the inefficiency of the Sylhet police and has been gratified to hear that Mr. Cotton proposes to reform the entire police of the

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province. The practice of admitting Sub-Inspectors into the service on the result of a competitive examination, as is done in Bengal, can with advantage be introduced into Assam. Under this practice graduates and under-graduates are coming into the Bengal Police and may well be expected to come into the Assam Police too. It is hoped that Mr. Cotton will earn the best regards of the people of Assam by thoroughly reforming the police of that province.

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50. The same paper says that a few days ago a theft was committed in a shop in Jinda Bazar in Sylhet town. The man whose property was stolen gave information of the occurrence to the local police on the morning following the theft. But though the police station is only ten minutes' walk from the place of occurrence the police did not turn up till the evening of that day.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,  
*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
*The 20th August, 1898.*